

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA, NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
) CRIMINAL ACTION NO.
v.)
) 2:22cr237-MHT
)
RENARDO TURNER)

ORDER

This cause is before the court on the second unopposed motion to continue trial filed by defendant Renardo Turner. For the reasons set forth below, the court finds that jury selection and trial, now set for March 13, 2023, should be continued pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h).

While the granting of a continuance is left to the sound discretion of the trial judge, see *United States v. Stitzer*, 785 F.2d 1506, 1516 (11th Cir. 1986), the court is limited by the requirements of the Speedy Trial Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3161. The Act provides in part:

"In any case in which a plea of not guilty is entered, the trial of a defendant charged in an information or indictment with the commission of an offense shall commence within seventy days from the filing date (and making public) of the information or indictment, or

from the date the defendant has appeared before a judicial officer of the court in which such charge is pending, whichever date last occurs."

§ 3161(c)(1). The Act excludes from the 70-day period any period of delay resulting from a continuance based on "findings that the ends of justice served by taking such action outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial." § 3161(h)(7)(A). In granting a continuance under subsection (h)(7)(A), the court may consider, among other factors, whether the failure to grant the continuance "would be likely to ... result in a miscarriage of justice," § 3161(h)(7)(B)(i), or "would deny counsel for the defendant or the attorney for the Government the reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence," § 3161(h)(7)(B)(iv).

The court concludes that, in this case, the ends of justice served by granting a continuance outweigh the

interest of the public and Turner in a speedy trial. Turner represents that a continuance of at least 60 days is needed to facilitate his appearance in front of a state-court judge in a related state case in order to enter a guilty plea and be sentenced pursuant to an agreement he has reached with the State. Turner notes that his currently scheduled trial date in this case was cited as a ground by the magistrate judge for denying his recent motion for a temporary release to the custody of the Elmore County Sheriff to appear in his state-court case. See Order (Doc. 25) ("Because trial in this matter is quickly approaching ... it is ORDERED that the Motion (Doc. 24) is DENIED."). The court sees no evidence of a lack of diligence on defense counsel's part.

Accordingly, it is ORDERED as follows:

- (1) The unopposed motion to continue trial (Doc. 26) is granted.

(2) The jury selection and trial, now set for March 13, 2023, are reset for June 5, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., in Courtroom 2FMJ of the Frank M. Johnson Jr. United States Courthouse Complex, One Church Street, Montgomery, Alabama.

The United States Magistrate Judge shall conduct a pretrial conference prior to the new trial term and shall postpone the change-of-plea and any other appropriate deadlines.

DONE, this the 23rd day of February, 2023.

/s/ Myron H. Thompson
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE